Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06173 130241Z

71
ACTION SCI-06

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E.O. 11652: N/
TAGS: TEGN, KS
SUBJECT: KOREAN PROPOSAL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT WITH US.

REF: STATE 164147

1. USAID DIRECTOR DISCUSSED THE PROPOSED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT WITH MINISTER CHOI, HYONG SUP/MOST AND BRIEFLY OUTLINED DEPARTMENT'S PRINCIPAL RESERVATIONS CONTAINED REFTEL REGARDING PROPOSED AGREEMENT;I.E. PROPOSAL LACKED SPECIFICITY REGARDING PROGRAMS/PROJECTS, MUTUALITY OF BENEFIT, BUDGETARY MAGNITUDES, ETC.

2. IN RESPONDING CHOI MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:
(A) PROPOSED AGREEMENT IS SIMPLY A MECHANISM FOR PROVIDING FOR THE EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DATA. IN ADDITION, AGREEMENT WOULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR RESEARCH ON JOINTLY AGREED UPON PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS DESIGNED TO BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TO BOTH SIDES.

(B) PROPOSED S AND T AGREEMENT IS NOT INTENDED TO
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 06173 130241Z

BE ANOTHER FORM OF GRANT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

RATHER AGREEMENT REPRESENTS A DEPARYURE FROM DE-
PENDENCE ON US ASSISTANCE AS ROKG WILLING TO SHARE
COSTS OF JOINT RESEARCH PROGRAMS, WHETHER CONDUCTED
IN KOREA OR US.

(C) THE ROKG HAS SIMILAR S AND T AGREEMENTS WITH UK,
FRANCE AND GERMANY, AND CURRENTLY IS NEGOTIATING
AGREEMENTS WITH JAPAN AND CANADA. MOST IS AWARE
OF COOPERATIVE SCIENCE USG/NSF AGREEMENTS WITH JAPAN,
ITALY, TAIWAN, ROMANIA, ETC. HOWEVER, MOST FEELS
THAT NSF INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE PROGRAMS ANE LIMITED
BY BUDGETARY RESTRICTIONS BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY,
NSF PROGRAMS TEND TO EMPHASIZE BASIC PHYSICAL SCIENCES,
WHILE DISREGARDING RESEARCH PRIORITIES IN THE APPLIED
AND SOCIAL SCIENCE FILEDS. THIS IS PRIMARY ROKG CON-
SIDERATION IN SEEKING THE UMBRELLA AGREEMENT CON-
TAINED IN THEIR S AND T PROPOSAL.

3. MOST IS PREPARED TO GIVE MORE SPECIFIC
DEFINITION TO RESEARCH PROGRAMS IN WHICH THEY BELIEVE
MUTUALITY OF INTERESTS EXISTS AND TO QUANTIFY IN TERMS
OF BUDGET REQUIRED FOR THIS RESEARCH. MOST WILL MAKE
NECASARY REVISIONS TO PROPOSAL IN CONSULTATION WITH
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE ADVISORS AND WILL RESUB-
MIT S AND T PROPOSAL WHEN COMPLETED.

4. UPON RECEIPT REVISED S AND T PROPOSAL, EMBASSY WILL
ANALYZE AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS THIS ISSUE.
COMMENTS: AS RESULT DISCUSSION, ROKG NOW RECOGNIZES
THAT PROPOSED S AND T AGREEMENT REQUIRES REVISION IN
TERMS OF DETAILED PLANNING, INCLUDING SPECIFICS RE-
LATING TO ADMINISTRATION OF AGREEMENT PROJECT
DEFINITION, BUDGETARY DATA, ETC. WHILE ROKG UNDOUBT-
EDLY RECOGNIZED THAT NSF WOULD BE IMPLEMENTING
AGENCY FOR SUCH AN AGREEMENT, MOST EMPHASIZED
THAT S AND T AGREEMTN IS A GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT
AND NOT AN AGENCY TO AGENCY AGREEMENT WITH NSG.
ROKG FORESEES AGREEMENT AS NECESSARY FRAME OF
REFERENCE FOR FUTURE SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATIVE
RESEARCH EFFORTS WITH USG ORGANIZATIONS, UNIVER-
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SITIES AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH CORPORATIONS.
IN THE PAST, US HAD HAD SUBSTANTIAL INVOLVEMENT IN
DEVELOPING A COMPETENT, LARGELY SELF-SUFFICIENT
ROKG SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, E.G. KIST, KAIS, KAEC,
ETC. ROKG INTERESTED IN ASSURING A CLOSE S AND T
ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE KOREAN AND AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC
COMMUNITIES AND SEES S AND T AGREEMENT AS MEANS FOR
ACHIEVING A CONTINUING MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING COMMENTS/
GUIDELINES WHICH COULD BE PASSED TO MOST TO IMPORVE
THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE REVISED AGREEMENT NOW
UNDER PREPARATION.
HABIB

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